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FINANCES OF RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

However, despite some excellent fiscal achievements, the majority of the regiunes reported grave errors. In Bailesti, Brabova, and Caracal in Dolj Regiune improper fiscal management resulted in greater expenditures than allocated by the 1951 budget; in others, only 91 percent of the tax assessments had been collected. In one regiune alone, there were 749 kulaks, 2,000 tradesmen, and 500 home owners who failed to pay any annual taxes, and yet incurred no punishment. Many kulaks like D. Cioculescu from Diosti, V. Atanasiu from Corabia, and D. Prodan from Dabuleni were completely exempt from the payment of taxes, although they had been known as kulaks of long standing in their respective communities. (3)

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Another grave error committed by the executive committees of regiune and raion people's councils was their failure to utilize the tax assessments properly and their uncalled for exemption of certain kulaks from tax responsibility. Thus, over 4,000 kulaks in the Bucharest Regiune, who ordinarily would have had to pay high taxes because of their kulak standing, were listed as "middle-class peasants" and consequently were able to take advantage of lower tax rates. Two examples out of many are those of kulaks Stan Bajenaru in Balarie, owner of 15 yokes of land, and Matei Constantin from Buturugeni, owner of 20 yokes of land, both of whom were incorrectly listed as "middle-class peasants" by the regiune financial committees. In addition, large number of homes were exempted from tax assessments without any just cause.

Still another error of the people's councils' financial committees was the failure to account for money received in the treasury of the respective raion and regiune committees. In Branesti, Sragov, Racari, Corbii-Mari, Salcuta, Vieru, and Toporu, kulak elements were appointed to high fiscal positions and subsequently succeeded in embezzling important sums of money from the state budget. Some of these have not been punished even to this date.

Failure to complete allocated projects on time because of lack of funds was yet another shortcoming of the financial committees of the people's councils. In many regiunes the 1951 plan was neither fulfilled in its entirety nor fulfilled on time. Thus, the sanatoriums in Mironesti, Corbii Lungi, and Gradinari were not completed on time, and one of these was never completed at all. A series of public works started by the regiune construction enterprises were also not finished at the designated time.(2)

Quite often, the budgets of regiune capitals are purposely sabotaged. Hostile elements seek to hinder the economic and sociocultural development in the Bucharest Regiune by denying allocations of budget funds. For example, Constantin Banu, relative of a kulak, was instrumental in seeing that only 30 percent of the sums originally allocated for school buildings were made available to the schools. Similarly, in Crevedia Raion no school received any scholarship funds throughout the 1951-1952 school year.(1)

On the whole, the picture throughout many regiunes is unsatisfactory. Many yearly financial reports submitted by the executive committees to the people's councils are grossly inaccurate, showing wide discrepancies between amounts collected and those spent. No semblance of explanation is attempted. However, it is apparent that all of these errors and shortcomings are caused by basic faults in the people's councils; these faults will have to be eradicated.

The most significant fault was the failure of the regiune, commune, and city people's councils to adopt the fiscal plans and party directives issued by the Central Committee. Another fault is the excessive absenteeism of deputies from the people's council meetings, which results in ignorance of party thought and committee decisions.

Still another unacceptable situation is the infiltration of rightist elements in the ranks of the financial committees; these elements disrupt the proper workings of the committees and cause extreme deviation from the party line. Finally, there are committees which fail to train their workers in the complicated problems of fiscal work. All these factors constitute the reason for the unsatisfactory fiscal status of many regiunes in the RPR. It is up to every financial committee in every people's council to reinvestigate its officers and employees, to give them increased financial and economic training, and to insure that party doctrine and committee decisions are followed strictly in every instance.(4)

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SOURCES

1. Viata Capitalei, 8 Jun 52
2. Romania Libera, 10 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 5 Jun 52
4. Viata Capitalei, 6 Jun 52

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